

REMARKS

Thorough examination of the application is sincerely appreciated.

In the Final Office Action and as maintained in the Advisory Action, claims 1, 7, 10, 17, 26, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,025,888 (Pauls). Claim 7-9, 11, 14-16, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Pauls in view of U.S. Patent 6,414,972 (Hagai).

Further to the Final Office Action and Advisory Action, claims 2-5, 12, 13, 18-21 and 33 contained allowable subject matter. In particular, it was stated that those claims were "objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Final Office Action and/or Advisory Action, Applicant's claims are amended as follows:

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. It is believed that independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-9 are allowable by virtue of their dependency, whether directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim 10 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12. It is believed that independent claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 13-16 are allowable by virtue of their dependency, directly or indirectly, from claim 10.

Claim 17 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18. It is believed that independent claim 17 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-25 are allowable by virtue of their dependency, directly or indirectly, from claim 17.

Claims 26-30 are canceled.

Claims 31 and 32 are amended to include the allowable subject matter. It is believed that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 33 is allowable by virtue of its dependency from claim 32.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Pauls and Hagai, either alone or in combination, do not anticipate or render obvious the present invention because the combination fails to teach or suggest all of the features of Applicant's claims, as discussed hereinabove.

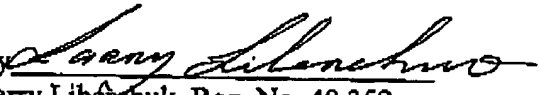
Withdrawal of the rejections is, therefore, respectfully requested.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's correspondence and advance the prosecution of this case. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason this application is not considered to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Serial No. 09/976,329

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No.
14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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